THE

Christian History;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival of Religion in *England Scotland* and *America*.

Saturday NOVEMBER 5. 1743. § N°. 36.

Mr. Ogilvie's *Letter finiſhed.*

AS to what you aſk of his Reception in *this City* --- I invited him, nay urged him to undertake this Journey, in Conſequence of a Correſpondence I had with him for more than two or three Years. I did it in Concurrence with a *very few*. His Journey was delayed, till bad Reports had imbittered the Minds of *almoſt all* againſt him: ſo that when he came, I cou'd ſcarce obtain Liberty for him to preach even in the *Fields*. All that I could do was, what I reſolved long before; I gave him with great Pleaſure & full Freedom *my Pulpit*, which for that Day was in the Church, which our *Magiſtrates* & principal People of *Note* frequent. And at once the Lord by his preaching melted down the Hearts of *his Enemies*, except----and---; ſo that, contrary to our Cuſtom, he was allowed the ſame Place and Pulpit in the Evening of that Day, and the other Church as often as he pleaſed.

While he ſtay'd among us, he anſwered our Expectations ſo much, that he has ſcarce *more Friends* any where of its Bulk than here; where at firſt almoſt all were *againſt him*. And the Word came alſo with ſo much *Power*, that I hope ſeveral of different Denominations will *bleſs the* LORD *for evermore*, that ever they heard him. And in his Way from us, I ſaw in Part, and have heard more fully ſince, what ſatisfies, *that this was of the* LORD, *and for the Good of many*.---

Honoured Sir,

Your moſt humble Servant,

James Ogilvie.

P. S. I ſuppoſe you have heard *that our Magiſtrates waited on him while here, and made him free of this Place.* A Compliment rarely allowed to Strangers of late.

To the preceeding *Letters we here add an Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Mr.* Williſon *of* Dundee *to his Friend at* Edinburgh, *reſpecting Mr.* WHITEFIELD's Character; *printed in the* Glaſgow *Weekly* Hiſtory *No.* 13.

Honoured Sir, Octob. 8. 1741.

I Am favoured with yours, wherein you deſire my Thoughts of Mr. *Whitefield*, and Account of his Labours and Succeſs with us. Altho' my Sentiments may be little regarded by many, yet when you put me to it, I think I am bound to do Juſtice to the Character of this Stranger, which I ſee few willing to do. I am not much ſurprized tho' the *Devil* and all he can influence be up in Arms againſt the Youth, ſeeing he makes ſuch bold and vigorous Attacks upon his Kingdom and ſtrong Holds. As you Sir, do obſerve it to be with you, ſo it is with us. He is hated and ſpoken againſt by all the *Epiſcopal* Party, and even the moſt of our Clergy do labour to diminiſh and expoſe him: this is not to be much wondred at, ſeeing his inceſſant Labours for CHRIST and Souls is ſuch a ſtrong *Reproof* to them, beſides what he ſays publickly againſt the ſending out of unconverted Miniſters, and their preaching an unknown CHRIST, this muſt be galling to carnal Men. I look upon this Youth as raiſed up of GOD for ſpecial Service, and ſpirited for making new and ſingular Attempts, for promoting true Chriſtianity in the World, and for reviving it where it is decayed; and I ſee him wonderfully filled and ſtrengthned both in Body and Mind, for going thro' with his Projects amidſt the greateſt Diſcouragements and Difficulties: I ſee the Man to be all of a Piece; his Life and Converſation to be a Tranſcript of his Sermons. It is truly a rare Thing to ſee ſo much of GOD about any one Man. To ſee one ſo eminent for Humility in the midſt of Applauſe; for Meekneſs and Patience under Reproaches and Injuries, for Love to Enemies, for Deſire to glorify CHRIST, and ſave Souls; Contentment in a mean Lot, acquieſcing in the Will of GOD in all Caſes, never fretting under any Diſpenſation, but ſtill praiſing and giving Thanks for every Thing. It is rare to ſee in a Man ſuch a flaming Fire for GOD and againſt Sin, when in the Pulpit, and yet moſt eaſy and calm in converſing with Men out of it, careful not to give Offence to them, and yet never couring the Favour of any. GOD has beſtowed a large Meaſure of Gifts and Graces upon him,

for

for the Work he is engaged in, and has made him a choſen Veſſel to carry his Name among the Gentiles, and to revive his Work in ſeveral other Churches. O that God may order his coming to poor *Scotland* in ſuch a cloudy Time for the ſame End! and who knows but God might be entreated if we could wreſtle with him, notwithſtanding of all our Provocations! Things appeared moſt unlikely in other Places ſome while ago, where now Christ is riding in Triumph, *going forth conquering and to conquer*. This worthy Youth is ſingularly fitted to do the Work of an *Evangeliſt*; and I have been long of Opinion that it would be for the Advantage of the World were this ſtill to be a *ſtanding Office* in the Church. And ſeeing the Lord has ſtirred him up to venture his Life, Reputation, and his All for Christ, refuſe the beſt Benefices in his own Country, and run all Hazards by Sea and Land, and travel ſo many thouſand Miles to proclaim the Glory of Christ, and Riches of his free Grace, of which he himſelf is a Monument; and eſpecially ſeeing God has honour'd him to do all this with ſuch ſurprizing Succeſs, among Sinners of all Ranks and Perſwaſions, and even many of the moſt notorious, in awakening and turning them to the Lord: I truly think we are alſo bound to honour him, and to eſteem him highly in Love for his Maſter's, and for his Work's ſake, according to 1 *Theſſ.* v. 13.--- And for thoſe who vilify and oppoſe him, I wiſh, they would even notice a *Gamaliel's* Words, Act. 5. *Let him alone, leſt haply ye be found to fight againſt* God; or rather that they would regard the Apoſtle *Peter's* Words, apologizing for his going in with the uncircumciſed, *Acts* 11. when the Holy Ghost fell upon them; *What was I that I could withſtand* God? I have myſelf been Witneſs to the Holy Ghost falling upon him and his Hearers oftner then once, I don't ſay in a miraculous, tho' obſervable Manner. Yea, I have already ſeen the deſirable Fruits thereof in not a few; and hope thro' the divine Bleſſing on the Seed ſown, to ſee more: many here are bleſſing God for ſending him to the Country, tho' *Satan* has raged much againſt it.

The Lord is a ſovereign Agent, and may raiſe up the Inſtruments of his Glory, from what Churches or Places he pleaſes; and glorifies his Grace the more, when he does it from thoſe Societies whence and when it could be leaſt expected: Tho' Mr. *Whitefield* be ordained according to his

Education, a Miniſter of the *Church* of *England*; yet we are to regard him as one whom GOD has raiſed up to witneſs againſt the Corruptions of that Church; whom GOD is ſtill inlightning, and cauſing to make advances towards us; he has already conform'd to us both in *Doctrine* and *Worſhip*, and lies open to Light to conform to us in other Points. He is thoroughly *Calviniſt* and found in the *Doctrines of free Grace*, in the Doctrine of original Sin, the new Birth, Juſtification by CHRIST, the Neceſſity of imputed Righteouſneſs, the Operations of the HOLY GHOST, &c. Theſe he makes his great Theme, drives the Point home to the Conſcience, and GOD attends it with great Power: And as GOD has inlightned him gradually in theſe Things, ſo he is ſtill ready to receive more Light; and ſo ſoon as he gets it, he is moſt frank in declaring it, be the Hazard, Loſs, or Suffering for it never ſo great; witneſs his Appearances againſt *Tillotſon*'s Works, the Book called, *The whole Duty of Man*, * the abuſing the *Negroes*, &c. Now when ſuch a Man is ſtill coming forward to us, yea under Proceſs, and ſuffering Perſecution for his Faithfulneſs and conforming to us, it is neither Generous nor Chriſtian to diſcourage or diſown him; nay if GOD think fit to employ him with ſo much Honour, and to bear with ſome Miſtakes in him, and want of Light, we ought to bear with him alſo.---

GOD by owning him ſo wonderfully, is pleaſed to give a Rebuke to our intemperate Bigotry and party Zeal, and to tell us that neither *Circumciſion nor Uncircumciſion availeth any Thing, but the new Creature.* In haſte,

Honoured Sir,

Your moſt humble Servant

Jo: Williſon.

P. S. Many with us are for preferring Miniſters according to the Party they are of; but commend me to a *pious* CHRIST-*exalting* and *Soul-winning* Miniſter, whatever be his Denomination; ſuch are Miniſters of CHRIST's ſending; and of ſuch he ſayeth, *He that receiveth you, receiveth me, and he that deſpiſeth you, deſpiſeth me*; which is a Rule of Duty to us.

That

* That Mr. *Whitefield* in his Opinion of theſe celebrated Writings, and ſuch as theſe, is not *ſingular* or *alone*, the following Paſſages from the very Pious & Learned Dr. COTTON MATHER, may be a ſufficient Evidence. In his Book Intitled *Directions for a Candidate of the Miniſtry*, p. 96 &c. he writes thus,

" I muſt adviſe you, That the genuine *Doctrines of Grace*, be all of them always with you, as the very *Salt* and *Soul* of your *Sermons*. Aſſert always the *Neceſſity* of *turning* and *living* unto GOD; and yet ſuch an *Impotency* in the wounded and corrupt Faculties of Man, as renders a *ſupernatural* and *regenerating* Work of *ſovereign Grace*, neceſſary for it. Show People how to plead the *Sacrifice* of our SAVIOUR, that they may be *forgiven*; and how to lay hold on his *Righteouſneſs*, that they may be *accepted* with GOD. Show People how to overcome, and mortify and crucify their *evil Appetites*, by repairing to the *Croſs* of our SAVIOUR; and how to derive *Strength* from him for the *doing*, and the *bearing* of all that they are called unto. Show the People of GOD, how to take the Comfort of their *eternal Election*, and *ſpecial Redemption*, and *inſured Perſeverance*; and at the ſame Time fetch mighty Incentives to *Holineſs*, from thoſe *Hopes*, which will forever cauſe thoſe that have them to *purify themſelves*. *Goſpellize* to them all the Commandments of the *Law*, and ſhow them how to obey upon the Principles of the *Goſpel*: And how the *Precepts* of the Goſpel are alſo ſo many *Promiſes* of it. With a ſtrong Application ſtudy the *Covenant of Grace*; and let the Spirit of that *Covenant* animate and regulate all your Performances, when you *bleſs the Lord in the Congregations*. In theſe Truths there are the *Articles*, which the Church either *ſtands* or *falls* withal. They *will be the Life* of your Miniſtry: Nor can the *Power of Godlineſs* be maintained without them. The Loſs of theſe *Truths* will render a Miniſtry inſipid and unfruitful; and procure this Complaint about the *Shepherds*, *The diſeaſed ye have not ſtrengthned, neither have ye brought again, that which was driven away.*

That you may be well verſed in theſe *Truths*, it will be requiſite, that your *main reading* may not be of ſuch Books that have been much in Vogue, ſince *real* and *vital* PIETY has been ſo much baniſhed out of the World, but are as

Lame

Lame in theſe Points, as that which is (*unjuſtly* and *unſafely* enough) Intitled, *The whole Duty of Man.* There is a *Set of Books* which of late Years have brought in a *faſhionable Divinity*; with the Authors whereof, I cannot but be in as ill Terms, as *Gildas* was with his Britiſh Clergy, when with him a Man was, *Non eximie Chriſtianus*, † who did not call them rather the *Betrayers* than the *Miniſters* of the *Goſpel.* I can by no Means wiſh you to take your *Divinity* from them; or to be unacquainted with the Caſtigations, which GOD has raiſed up one of *their Church* (an *Edwards*, I mean) to beſtow upon them. In ſhort, if a Book that pretends to deſcribe the Way of a *Sinner's Reconciliation unto GOD*, ſays nothing of, *By the Obedience of One, many made Righteous:* If a Book that pretends to direct a *Chriſtian Life*, ſays nothing of a *Converſion to GOD*, and of being *joined unto the Lord*, thro' his *one Spirit* quickning of us: And if a Book (that ſhall be written perhaps by One who hath ſubſcribed our *thirty nine Articles*) dreſſes up our Doctrine of *Predeſtination* in the fallacious and invidious Terms, and the *Bearſkins* in which it is now commonly exploded, and proclaims the Author did not *believe* in his *Heart*, the *Articles* and *Homilies*, which his prevaricating *Hand* made a Subſcription to, (Or if it be a Book that ſhall any where ſpitefully link *Rome* and *Geneva* together:) *Hunc tu, ſtudioſe, caveto.* I had as good plainly ſay, Let not *Scott*, and Company, be the *Men of your Counſel.*"

† i. e. *but an indifferent Chriſtian.*

Inaſmuch as the Narrative *of the extraordinary* Work *at* CAMBUSLANG *in the Beginning of* 1742, *and Mr.* Webſter's *excellent* Letter *in its Vindication, have been reprinted here, we ſhall only preſent our Readers with the following Extracts from the* Glaſgow Weekly Hiſtory *reſpecting the Revival & Progreſs of Religion in* that Place.

The following is a Tranſlation of a Preface *to the* Cambuſlang Narrative *printed in the* Dutch *Language at* Rotterdam *in* HOLLAND, *which we apprehend will be both entertaining and inſtructive.*

Glaſgow,

Glaſgow Weekly Hiſtory, No. 43.

To the Chriſtian Reader.

Hugh Kennedy Miniſter of the *Scots* Church of JeſusChriſt in *Rotterdam*, wiſhing Grace Mercy and Peace.

THE Converſion of elect Sinners to GOD, is one of the moſt glorious and admirable Effects of ſovereign and infinite Wiſdom Power and Grace; and affords Matter of ſolemn Joy to all theSaints. For every one thus added to the Church of CHRIST brings ſo much more of his Preſence and SPIRIT into the Aſſembly where he worſhips; and adds the more Strength & Beauty to the REDEEMER's Intereſt in the World: He alſo adds to the Joy of Heaven --- The good Angels rejoyce exceedingly to hear of one Sinner, much more of a Multitude of Sinners, reſcued from the cruel Tyranny of Satan, and brought into the Kingdom of GOD, who ſhall be Sharers andCompanions with them in the eternal Bliſs and Glory, and gladly become miniſtring Spirits for the Good of thoſe Heirs of Salvation. And ſuch Converts will in a very particularManner be a Crown & a Joy to all ſuch who are any Ways concerned in bringing them to GOD. And can there be a more raviſhingSight on thisSide of Heaven than to behold periſhing Sinners on their return to *God*, under the ſweet but all-conquering Power of the Grace of JESUS CHRIST.

TheſeConſiderations moved me with the moſt ſenſible Joy, when I read this Narrative of a moſt gracious and wonderful pouring down of the SPIRIT upon many Perſons at CAMBUSLANG, a Place within four Miles of *Glaſgow*. It is as Life from the Dead after a long Time of Barrenneſs and Formality: And tho' a conſtant lively Courſe of Religion be in it ſelf more valuable, yet the ſudden Converſion of many careleſs Sinners from the Way of Sin and Wrath, muſt yield a more ſurprizing Pleaſure; and none but Men very much Strangers to a heavenly Spirit, or under the Influence of fearful Prejudices, will do any Thing to reproach ſuch a Work, to hinder it, or be exaſperated and grieved at it.

I am confident this Narrative will afford a very high Pleaſure and Satisfaction, to all in the UNITED PROVINCES, who love our Lord JESUS in Sincerity, and long for his Coming and Kingdom. They will be glad to hear of the Converſion of poor Sinners, becauſe it accompliſhes God's great Deſign

Deſign of Grace and Love, and is the bringing of thoſe to CHRIST whom the FATHER has given him from Eternity, and in whom he will be for ever glorified. In this Confidence I have chearfully promoted the *Tranſlation* of *this Narrative* into the *Dutch* Tongue, that ſo I might ſome Way contribute to help the Joy of thoſe whoſe Happineſs in Time and Eternity, I moſt ſincerely pray for.

I know the *Miniſters*, who have *atteſted* this *Narrative*, to be Men of ſuch excellent *Knowledge*, in the Truths and Ways of GOD, ſuch *ſolid Piety*, and of ſuch *Fidelity* and *Integrity*, that their Teſtimony in this Matter is worthy of *all Credit*, and may ſafely be depended on. While others are ſpeaking and publiſhing their Sentiments concerning this Work with all Freedom, *theſe faithful Miniſters* of JESUS CHRIST judge themſelves obliged to do ſo too.

They had *more Opportunity than any others*, to inform themſelves concerning the Ways of the LORD with theſe People, and their Manner of Life, Purpoſe, Faith, Charity; and *what they have ſeen and heard*, that declare they unto us; and I for my Part do chearfully receive their Teſtimony, becauſe I know them to be Men of *good Senſe*, & *Learning*, and of *ſtrict Veracity*, and alſo free from *enthuſiaſtic* Impreſſions, unleſs ſerious Religion and experimental Piety be ſo called, as alas we have melancholy Occaſion to obſerve they often are!

There appear plain *Marks* of *Sincerity* and *Impartiality* in the following Account; and *the ſame Things* have been written to me by *other Friends* of *unqueſtionable Capacity* and *Integrity*, whom I know and correſpond with, and who have diligently viſited that People, among whom the REDEEMER is now riding forth in the Chariot of the everlaſting Goſpel conquering and to conquer. And this *bleſſed Work* is ſince the Publication of *this Narrative*, ſpreading and going forward in *ſeveral other Places*; particularly *Kilſyth* a Pariſh, about *ſix Miles* to the *North* of *Glaſgow*, there are *above an Hundred* careleſs Sinners, lately awakned to a deep Concern about their Souls and Eternity, and appear to be in a hopeful Way.

(To be continued.)